(a) whether Government have introduced any reforms in the agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating therein the benefits accrued after intro duction of the reforms; and

(c) if no benefit have accrued, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISH-RA): (a) The reforms carried out in the agriculture sector include liberalization of inter-state movement of foodgrains, promotion of exports of agricultural commodities, greater focus on development of oilseeds and pulses, promoting cropping system approach for increasing crop production, greater access to commodities etc These reforms have helped in improvement of agricultural productivity and production.

Study by Tobacco Developmcnt Council

1451. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICUL TURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tabacco Development Council has done any study on the economic feasibility of conversion of tabacco to other crops; and

(b) if so, when was this study done and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISH-RA): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Question does not arise.

Income from Sale of Passenger Tickets

1452. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total income of the Railways by sale of passenger tickets last year;

(b) what is the total income by sale of tickets for journeys to and from Kerala; and

(a)what is the amount spent for the development of Railways in Kerala last year and the total amount spent for all *the* States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAH WAYS (SHRI SATPAL M AH A RAJ) The total income of the Railway sale of passenger tickets last year under:

Year	(Amounts in of Rs.)
1995-96	6124.49

(b) and (c) State-wise ·on is not maintained in this regard.

Special Support Programme for Small Farmers

1453. SHRI DR.B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn a Special Support Programme for the small farmers;

(b) if so, the details therfore and

(c) how these have benefited the small farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGR1CUAL-TURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISH-RA): (a) to (c) The schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation help the farmers both indirectly and directly. In the former case, the farmers are helped through infra-structural development. In the latter case, there are individual oriented schemes like assistance for weaker sec tions/ women cooperatives, subsidy on transportation of seeds for remote areas and North-Eastern, concessional sale of fertilizers. In addition, subsidy on inputs, demonstrations on fanners' fields, extension training for farmers, subsidy on drip irrigation/sprinkler irrigation are covered under crop oriented and horticulture development programmes.

There are certain area development schemes like national Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas, Soil Conservation in River Valley Projects,